

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 26 May 2005 (26.05.05);
original claims 1-16 replaced by new claims 1-10 (2 pages)]

1. A cassette (10, 10', 100), comprising:

a frame member (12) having at least two sides interconnected by a cross member (16); and

a reinforcement material (22) at least partially encapsulated and suspended by the at least two sides of said frame member (12) such that the reinforcement material (22) is positioned at a predetermined location when placed in a mold tool (50, 52).
2. The cassette of Claim 1, further comprising a shear plane (48) located at an intersection of the frame member (12) and a layer (46) of material of an interior trim panel.
3. The cassette of Claim 2, further comprising a knife edge (54) on the frame member (12).
4. The cassette of Claim 1, wherein said frame member (12) includes a spacer lug (28) for positioning said reinforcement material (22) at the predetermined location within the mold tool.
5. The cassette of Claim 1, wherein the at least two sides are two opposing sides, and wherein the reinforcement material (22) is secured to the two opposite sides of the frame member (12).
6. The cassette of Claim 1, further comprising an outer cassette member (80) for positioning the reinforcement material (22) outside a tear seam (90) of the trim panel.
7. An interior trim panel, comprising:

a layer (46) of material, and

a cassette (10, 10', 100) disposed within the layer of material, the cassette including a frame member (12) having at least two sides interconnected by a cross member (16), and a reinforcement material (22) at least partially encapsulated and suspended by the at least two sides of said frame member (12),

wherein the reinforcement material (22) is positioned at a predetermined location within the layer of material.

8. The interior trim panel of Claim 7, further comprising a shear plane (48) defined at an interface between the frame member (12) and the layer (46) of material.

9. The interior trim panel of Claim 7, wherein the cassette further comprises at least one spacer lug (28) for positioning the reinforcement material (22).

10. The interior trim panel of Claim 7, wherein the frame member (12) includes two opposing sides, and wherein the reinforcement material (22) is secured to the two opposite sides of the frame member (12).